

Docket No.: 4976-008

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of | : | <u>ATTN: Box Issue Fee</u> |
| | : | |
| Jean-Philippe THOMAS et al. | : | Confirmation No. 5656 |
| | : | |
| U.S. Patent Application No. 10/560,523 | : | Group Art Unit: 2615 |
| | : | Allowed: October 16, 2009 |
| Filed: December 13, 2005 | : | Examiner: GEORGE C. MONIKANG |
| For: ECHO PROCESSING METHOD AND DEVICE | | |

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respond as follows to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance contained in the October 16, 2009, Notice of Allowance for the referenced application:

Method claim 29 is independent from claim 27 and should be allowed on its own. Indeed, method claim 29 does not limit the operations set forth in the reasons for allowance to any specific structure, e.g., an audio interface, an echo control module or a transfer module, or to the particular "means" set forth in specification and insubstantial differences thereof (the narrow interpretation given to the "means" under 35 USC 112, 6th paragraph) and claim 28 is not limited to "means plus function limitations" or to an audio interface.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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